Statewide Survey and Detection

The statewide detection and survey element of the program is designed to identify and monitor the glassy-winged sharpshooter infestations and populations.



The activities of this element focus on systematically surveying commercial and residential properties to detect the presence of the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

In the spring of 2000, the CDFA distributed survey and inspection guidelines to all California counties emphasizing techniques for detecting the glassy-winged sharpshooter in agricultural areas of the state outside of the currently

known infested areas. County agricultural commissioners incorporated survey activities into their local work plans and were provided resources for implementation. Additional detection training and educational materials are made available by the CDFA, and staff entomologists have assisted with field surveys.

The published guidelines outline trapping and visual inspection of the sharpshooter's preferred host plants. While yellow panel traps have been found to be useful for adult glassy-winged sharpshooter detection, visual inspection is considered the most effective method for detecting sharpshooter life forms, yet it is labor intensive and time consuming.

An initial statewide survey determined that 45 counties were apparently free of the glassywinged sharpshooter. Ongoing survey efforts later in the season uncovered new sharpshooter infestations in three counties.

Ongoing and expanded surveys will be an important component for the program. Experience from the first season of the program has provided better information about high-risk areas and about the best times of the year to survey in different parts of the state. The extent of the sharpshooter's presence in California will not be known until a more comprehensive statewide survey is performed.